

Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-35 (cancelled)

Claim 36 (currently amended): A method of making an attenuated FIV-141 virus that replicates upon entry into a host cell but which exhibits significantly reduced infectivity to feline T lymphocytes relative to the wild type FIV-141 virus, ~~or a nucleic acid molecule encoding said attenuated FIV-141 virus,~~ comprising mutating by deletion in an ENV gene of the wild-type virus.

Claims 37-44 (cancelled)

Claim 45 (withdrawn): An attenuated FIV-141 virus produced by the method of claim 36.

Claim 46 (withdrawn): A nucleic acid molecule encoding the attenuated FIV-141 virus of claim 45.

Claim 47 (withdrawn): A host cell infected with the attenuated FIV-141 virus of claim 45.

Claim 48 (withdrawn): An attenuated whole virus vaccine, comprising the attenuated FIV-141 virus of claim 45, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 49 (cancelled)

Claim 50 (withdrawn): A vaccine comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 46 at a concentration sufficient to induce immunity when administered to a cat, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 51 (currently amended): A method of producing a mutated nucleic acid molecule suitable for use in a vaccine for FIV-141 virus infection, comprising:

- a) reverse transcribing said FIV-141 virus's genomic RNA;
- b) cloning the reverse transcript of step (a) to form a cloned nucleic acid;

- c) mutating by deletion in the ENV gene of said~~in the~~ cloned nucleic acid of step (b) to form a mutated nucleic acid molecule; and
- d) cloning said~~the~~ mutated nucleic acid of step (c).

Claim 52 (currently amended): The method of claim 51, wherein the mutated nucleic acid molecule encoding an attenuated FIV-141 virus, upon introduction into a host cell, produces an attenuated FIV-141 virus that replicates but which exhibits significantly reduced infectivity to feline T-lymphocytes relative to the wild-type FIV-141 virus~~made from the unmutated, wild-type nucleic acid~~.

Claims 53-60 (cancelled)

Claim 61 (original): A host cell infected with a nucleic acid molecule prepared by the method of claim 51.

Claims 62-69 (cancelled)

Claim 70 (withdrawn): A method of inducing an immune response in a cat, comprising administering the vaccine of claim 48 to said cat at a dosage sufficient to induce protective immunity against subsequent infection with at least one strain of said FIV-141.

Claims 71-73 (cancelled)